

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 15-20, 27 and 34 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 20 and 27 are amended. Claims 6-11, 13, 14, 21-26 and 28-33 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained in those claims. Claim 34 is added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the Application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments only involve dependent claims; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the Office Action; and (d) place the Application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 8, rejects claims 5 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 is amended to obviate the rejection. Claim 30 is canceled rendering the rejection of that claim moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 11, rejects claims 1-5 and 15-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,630,055 to Goguelin et al. (hereinafter "Goguelin"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Goguelin discloses a coated paper including at least one mark resembling a watermark. One or more zones of the coated paper present a reduction in thickness relative to

the remainder of the coated paper, the density (or weight) per unit area in said zone(s) of the coated paper being identical to that of the remainder of the paper (Abstract, emphasis added).

Claim 1 recites paper based on a fiber composition, the paper comprising at least one multitone effect watermark, wherein the watermark, when observed in transmitted light, has a set of dark zones and a set of pale zones arranged in the manner of a screened image, and the pale zones have a weight per unit area in a fiber composition that is less than that of the dark zones (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that because claim 1 recites that the pale zones have a weight per unit area of fiber composition that is less than that of the dark zones, claim 1 would not have been obvious in view of Goguelin which discloses the coated paper having a weight per unit area in at least one pale zone identical to that in the remainder of the coated paper.

Dependent claims 2-5, 15-20, 27 and 34, though reciting separately patentable subject matter, include all of the features of independent claim 1 from which they directly or indirectly depend. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims also would not have been obvious in view of Goguelin.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 15-20 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Goguelin are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 13, rejects claims 1-5 and 15-32 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 12, 15, 18, 25, 27, 32 and 36 of Goguelin. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

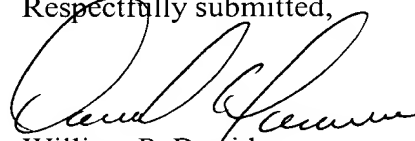
Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the claims of Goguelin. Specifically, claim 1 of Goguelin recites, among other features, said coated paper having a mass per unit area in said at least one zone identical to that in the remainder of the coated paper (emphasis added). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Goguelin fails to disclose, or suggest, paper comprising ... a set of dark zones and a set of

pale zones ... the pale zones have a weight per unit area of fiber composition that is less than that of the dark zones, as is recited, among other features, in independent claim 1 of this Application. Further, as noted above, claims 2-5, 15-20 and 27 depend from, and thus include the features of, independent claim 1. As such, these claims are also patentably distinguishable from the claims of Goguelin. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of claims 1-5, 15-20 and 27 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5, 15-20, 27 and 34 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this Application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 19, 2004

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